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Ex-CIA Man Assails Plan For Contras

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A former CIA employee in Nicaragua says allowing Contra rebels to train on American soil will take the United States one step deeper in its involvement in Nicaraguan affairs.

David MacMichael, the former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in an interview that no definite parallels could be drawn between escalation of American activity in Central America and its moves into Southeast Asia more than 20 years ago. But, a Vietnam-type scenario cannot be ruled out, he said.

"Central America is not Vietnam," MacMichael said. "They are very, very different in a lot of ways.

"But I'm sure John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson didn't see the kind of struggle we were going to have in Vietnam, either, or they wouldn't have gotten involved in it."

MacMichael worked under contract for the CIA in Central America from 1981 to 1983. When he left the agency, he began to openly criticize U.S. policy in Central America, saying he could find no evidence to prove Nicaragua was helping smuggle weapons to rebels in El Salvador, as the administration of President Ronald Reagan has claimed.

MacMichael said he had left in protest over pressure to falsify intelligence reports and state he could find evidence of smuggling. He said such evidence would have been used to justify the administration's support for the Contras, who are fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. MacMichael said he could see no justification for backing the Contras.

In an interview Monday, MacMichael said he found it ironic that the type of terrorist activity that the United States has deplored in the rest of the world was exactly the kind of activity in which the Contras were engaging in Central America.